**OBITUARY FOR SISTER H. ANGELLA HARRIS, OSF**

Sister H. Angella Harris OSF was born on February 20, 1960, to Nehemiah (deceased) and Sereta Harris at Spaulding in the parish of Clarendon. She was one of six children.

Sister Angella believed that “we each travel our own journey and, perhaps most important, are our companions on the way.” She reflected on her journey at the joyful celebration of her 25th Jubilee as a Franciscan Sister:

“One of my earliest experiences of spiritual stirrings was during the 5.a.m. Easter service at St. Michael’s Anglican Church as the rising sun burst through the stained glass window. My knowledge and understanding of God deepened in the church and in my teenage years. I enjoyed many summer camps with Anglican youth in Negril. While in third form, I attended a United Church youth camp and Rev. Thames’ message led me to make a personal commitment to God. It was not a fall-off-the-horse experience like Paul’s, but a new way of seeing, listening and understanding how God works in my life, began for me.”

Sister joined the Girl Guides Company and later the Students’ Christian Movement at St. Hugh’s High School. She discovered “how wonderful creation and the outdoors were and also the blessing it was to be with others” as she enjoyed hikes, campfires and camps. In lower sixth form, she attended a Girl Guides Patrol Leaders seminar with Sr. Frances O’Dell. She states, “It was the first time I was seeing a nun,” and after the seminar Angella asked some questions about the Catholic Church. “There began my unofficial classes in the Catholic faith. A few months later, a friend asked her priest if I, a non-Catholic, could attend their young people’s retreat. He agreed. And there I found another mentor, Fr. Charles DuFour…now Archbishop DuFour.” Sr. Angella and her friends attended many sessions at the Sheraton with Deeper Life Ministries, where “my desire to serve God deepened. But it was my visits to the convent that I felt the greatest peace. Three years after leaving high school, Fr. Charles and the St. Benedict’s community welcomed me into the Church and two years later, I joined the Franciscan Sisters of Allegany.” Sister Angella noted at her silver jubilee celebration, “I thank the Sisters for having the faith to have allowed such a baby Catholic into their lives.”

Her Novice Director in 1985 described Sister Angella as persevering and faithful, a person who has grown in the knowledge of the Lord, in faith and in personal awareness of herself. From the very beginning, Angella appeared “extremely quiet, reticent,” somewhat introverted, a private person with a pleasant personality, whose “shyness” sometimes hindered one from reaching the witty, humourous and friendly person that she was.

Sister Angella’s ministry as a Franciscan Sister of Allegany was primarily in the field of education. After her years of initial formation as a postulant, canonical and apostolic novice up to first profession of vows, Sister was assigned to Mt. Alvernia High School where, from 1989 to 2005 she was teacher, Vice Principal and Principal. In September 2005 she was assigned to Immaculate Conception High as Principal.

Sister Angella was a gifted and competent sister. Among many of her competences, include her computer skills and her ability to write accurate minutes especially at our community meetings- Her well known phrase “keep simple things simple” reflect her understanding of humility and simplicity as true Franciscan virtues.

During her illness, Sister displayed courage and was a woman of faith. She received the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick on the day prior to her departure to her Creator. As a community, we are happy to have had the opportunity to be at her bedside, as in prayer and song we travelled with her until she breathed her last.

In the words from 1 Peter 1:3 we pray:

**“Praised be the God and Father of Our Lord Jesus Christ, He who in His great mercy gave us new birth; a birth unto hope which draws its life from the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead…”**

**Angella, rest in peace!**